



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES

Week of: Oct 2-Oct 8, 2006

Number: 31

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2006

Rainfall continued this week across most areas of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for field work were 4.4. The state received an average of over 3 inches of rain this week, and temperatures were slightly above normal. The average high temperature this week was 83 degrees. Rains, heavy at times, slowed corn harvest and field work again this week. However, the increase in moisture has been excellent for hay fields and pasture conditions. Livestock are reported to be in good condition. Small grains that have been planted are reported to be off to a good start due to the recent rain. Soybeans have somewhat recovered from the dry conditions of summer, but late planted beans still show some decline in yield potential. Farmers were busy this week planting barley and preparing for other small grain planting. Pumpkin and sweet potato harvests are mostly complete. Some late tomatoes and squash remain to be harvested. Reporters say the apple harvest is going well. Strawberry plants were set this week, and producers expect that the rains will help the plants establish. Other farm activities this week included spreading fertilizers and herbicides, and servicing equipment for small grain planting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|--------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| September 10, 2006 | 3 | 9 | 75 | 13 |
| September 17, 2006 | 2 | 6 | 83 | 9 |
| September 24, 2006 | 1 | 9 | 80 | 10 |
| October 1, 2006 | 2 | 5 | 85 | 8 |
| October 8, 2006 | 0 | 2 | 78 | 20 |

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2006

| WEATHER STATION | TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit) | | | | PRECIPITATION (inches) | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| | HI | LO | Average | Departure from Normal | TOTAL | Departure from Normal | Days |
| NORTHERN | | | | | | | |
| Woodstock | 82 | 43 | 58 | -3 | 2.53 | 1.80 | 4 |
| Warrenton | 81 | 42 | 60 | -1 | 2.04 | 1.27 | 3 |
| Winchester 7 SE | 83 | 43 | 59 | 2 | 2.35 | 1.65 | 4 |
| Dale Enterprises | 81 | 41 | 57 | -2 | 2.62 | 1.85 | 5 |
| WESTERN | | | | | | | |
| Glasgow | 85 | 47 | 62 | 3 | 3.71 | 2.92 | 3 |
| Roanoke AP | 84 | 48 | 63 | 4 | 2.25 | 1.41 | 3 |
| Waynesboro | 81 | 44 | 57 | 0 | 4.89 | 4.05 | 3 |
| Staunton AG | 82 | 44 | 58 | 2 | 3.97 | 3.13 | 4 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | |
| Charlottesville | 82 | 43 | 61 | -2 | 4.64 | 3.60 | 4 |
| Piedmont Res ST | 83 | 47 | 61 | 1 | 4.02 | 3.11 | 3 |
| Bremo Bluff | 88 | 46 | 63 | 3 | 8.73 | 7.83 | 4 |
| Richmond AP | 87 | 51 | 67 | 5 | 4.17 | 3.40 | 3 |
| EASTERN | | | | | | | |
| Eastville | 80 | 54 | 67 | 2 | 5.35 | 4.72 | 4 |
| Wallops Island | 81 | 51 | 66 | 0 | 2.30 | 1.67 | 4 |
| Williamsburg | 86 | 51 | 65 | 2 | 9.97 | 9.19 | 2 |
| Keysville | 83 | 47 | 62 | 2 | 3.88 | 2.97 | 3 |
| SOUTHWESTERN | | | | | | | |
| Blacksburg AG | 79 | 41 | 58 | 3 | 1.17 | 0.33 | 3 |
| Wytheville | 79 | 38 | 57 | 2 | 0.39 | -0.38 | 2 |
| Saltville | 80 | 43 | 60 | 3 | 1.28 | 0.51 | 3 |
| Richlands | 78 | 43 | 58 | 6 | 1.76 | 1.00 | 5 |
| SOUTHERN | | | | | | | |
| Stuart | 81 | 45 | 62 | 3 | 1.13 | 0.15 | 3 |
| Danville AG | 85 | 49 | 63 | 0 | 5.07 | 4.23 | 3 |
| Chatham | 83 | 44 | 60 | 0 | 1.88 | 0.97 | 3 |
| Martinsville | 83 | 42 | 61 | 2 | 1.28 | 0.37 | 4 |
| SOUTHEASTERN | | | | | | | |
| Norfolk VA | 84 | 56 | 69 | 5 | 1.36 | 0.59 | 4 |
| Oceana | 84 | 53 | 69 | 2 | 0.48 | -0.31 | 3 |
| Emporia | 84 | 50 | 64 | 4 | 3.50 | 2.70 | 3 |
| Newport News | 86 | 53 | 70 | 5 | 6.27 | 5.50 | 5 |

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of October 2-October 8, 2006

| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pastures | 1 | 8 | 34 | 44 | 13 |
| Livestock | 1 | 5 | 18 | 61 | 15 |
| Other Hay | 2 | 20 | 29 | 43 | 6 |
| Alfalfa Hay | 0 | 6 | 37 | 50 | 7 |
| Soybeans | 6 | 12 | 43 | 32 | 7 |
| Peanuts | 0 | 8 | 30 | 30 | 32 |
| Cotton | 0 | 12 | 23 | 33 | 32 |
| All Apples | 0 | 3 | 17 | 76 | 4 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Grain Harvested | 69 | 49 | 58 | 60 |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 95 | 91 | 100 | 95 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 67 | 54 | 82 | 67 |
| Soybeans Harvested | 5 | 3 | 14 | 9 |
| Winter Wheat Seeded | 14 | 10 | 13 | 14 |
| Winter Wheat Emerged | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Barley Seeded | 49 | 39 | 39 | 35 |
| Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested | 90 | 85 | 89 | 92 |
| Burley Tobacco Harvested | 94 | 89 | 99 | 99 |
| Peanuts Dug | 50 | 22 | 44 | 46 |
| Peanuts Combined | 35 | 18 | 30 | 30 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 99 | 96 | 98 | 86 |
| Cotton Harvested | 28 | 7 | 19 | 17 |
| Fall Apples Harvested | 88 | 85 | 76 | 74 |
| Winter Apples Harvested | 30 | 25 | 21 | 38 |

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

BLAND COUNTY (Jim Atwell):

Rain showers were heavy in several parts of the county at the end of last week. Several areas received 2.5-3 inches of total rainfall. Most pastures are very lush for this time of the year. Producers have pretty much wrapped up corn silage harvesting, completed last hay making crops, and are sowing cover crops for the winter.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

The recent needed rainfall will hamper harvest efforts a bit early this week. Apple and corn harvests are looking good so far.



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REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY (Kenner Love):

Apple and grape harvests are well underway.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

Heavy rainfall on Friday slowed field work. Many fields are now saturated and continued rainy conditions will make wheat planting and soybean harvest difficult. Corn harvest continued and is winding down. Yields have been good for the most part. Farmers were busy planting barley and making preparations for planting wheat. Soybean harvest has just begun with yields reported around 32 bushels per acre. Some hay was also made.

NEW KENT COUNTY (Paul Davis):

Farmers are picking corn, cutting soybeans, spreading fertilizers and herbicides for small grain planting, as well as watching it rain all day on Friday, Oct. 6th.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

Good progress was made on corn harvest Monday-Thursday, but a deluge of rain for Friday and Saturday stopped field work. The county had 4 inches of rain or more across the area. Some small grains were planted this week, and some cover crops are going in as part of a conservation cost share program. Warm weather early in the week was good for fall vegetables.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

Weather has been favorable for farmers, with a week of little rain. Tomato harvest is slowing, and most are waiting on a frost. Late bell pepper harvest is still in full swing, with aphids causing minor problems. Potatoes are being dug and stored. Cattle producers are sorting cattle to wean for next weeks VQA calf working. Most tobacco has been harvested and housed.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Rains this week slowed corn silage harvest. Hay production is ongoing but slow due to the cooler wet weather. Re-growth of cool season grasses in pastures has been good. Livestock entering the marketing system are in good condition.

HALIFAX COUNTY (Traci Talley):

The county received more rain this week along with cooler temperatures. Tobacco harvest continues and is nearing completion. Soybeans are dropping leaves and some crops are near thrashing. No corn has been harvested yet. Cattle are in better condition with the lush growth of grass that the rains have brought. Fall hay harvest is still under way. The yields are low, but producers continue to harvest all they can.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (Bruce Jones & Jamie Stowe):

Tobacco farmers are concerned about the cooler temperatures expected towards the end of this week. The excessive rainfall over the weekend is making it difficult to get the tobacco out of the field. Farmers across the county are using this wet down time to service equipment for fall grain harvest and small grain seeding. Hay and pasture land are recovering from the summer drought and look much better. Some producers are still trying to get in one more cutting, but the weather is making it hard to cure hay.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):

Recent dry weather has allowed for much hay to be cut and baled this week. Corn harvest is complete with good yields, similar to last year's crop. Early soybean varieties are being harvested this week. Yields are variable, depending on drainage of fields. Excess rain hurt some soybeans early in the season. Strawberry plants are almost all set. Weekend rain should help those plants establish.